THE THIRD DAY.

17th February 1915.

The Assembly met at 11-30 A. M. on Wednesday, the 17th February 1915.

20. The desirability of nominating a Christian member from South Travancore to the Legislative Council.

Mr. D. C. Joseph (Member, Nominated) said that communal representation in the Legislative Council was necessary in the peculiar conditions of the State. The country was marked by various conflicting castes and creeds and the people of one caste or class very seldom elected a representative from another caste or class even on account of merit or other considerations. The representative so elected seldom represented the interests of other castes or classes. He added that the castes or classes, which had such representation in the Councils of the State, obtained special economic or political advantages to the detriment of others and that the interests of Government also suffered by the non-representation of any important caste or class. In view of the large Christian population in the State, there should be at least three non-official members from them in the Council, two from North Travancore and one from South Travancore, based on territorial area. The Christians of South Travancore had little chance of electing one from amongst them as a member of the Council in the existing conditions of election, as they could not secure a majority for the purpose in the Assembly. The Christians of South Travancore had attained marked progress in modern civilisation and they deserved, in point of literacy and wealth, to have a representative in the Council. Divisional representation by election being the chief principle for the election of the non-official members of the Council, the community which the Member represented had not yet gained any political influence or power in the country. He therefore requested that a provision for the representation of the South Travancore Christian community in the Legislative Council should be urgently made in the general interests of that community.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

21. The necessity for the creation of separate electorates for Christians for the purpose of securing representation in the Legislative Council and the Popular Assembly.

Mr. K. M. Mamman Mappila (Member, T. I. C., Thiruvalla) said that, in the Popular Assembly and in the Legislative Council, the two important popular institutions in the State, the Christians were ill-represented and they had little prospect of increasing the number of their representatives in the said institutions under the existing rules of election. The number of taluk representatives in the Assembly, who were Christians, was always very limited. The Christians constituted more than one-fourth of the total population of the State and, in point of literacy too, they occupied no inferior position compared to other classes. The chief reason why the Christians were ill-represented in the Assembly in spite of their numerical strength and high literacy was that there were very few Christians who paid a Sirkar kist of Rs. 50 and who, therefore, satisfied one condition of election. That disability was chiefly due to the partition of Makkathayam property. The Member therefore requested that a minimum number of members might be allotted to taluks with a large Christian population, or to each revenue division, or to special territorial areas which might be decided on by the Government. He then said that the voters' lists were defective so far as the Christians were concerned. To obviate the evil, he suggested that the list of voters should be published in the Gazette sufficiently early to admit of errors and omissions being rectified.

As regards the Legislative Council, ever since the right of election of members to the Council was granted to the Assembly, the election fell to the lot of Nairs only,

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as they preponderated in the Assembly. The exclusion of Christians was a matter of grievance to them and that grievance had to be redressed.

The Member therefore requested that separate electorates might be created for Christians for the purpose of securing adequate representation in the Legislative Council and in the Popular Assembly. He was aware of the evils incidental to special electorates for particular communities but, in the present conditions, he believed that no other course was feasible. If, however, separate electorates be deemed inexpedient, the community would be satisfied if the Government devised any other method which would tend to remove the inadequacy in the representation of the Christians in the two institutions.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

22. The need for appointing a Mahomedan Judge in the High Court.

Mr. Ibrahim Pillai Sayyid Mahomed (Member, Nominated) said that, in the High Courts in British India, there was always a Mahomedan Judge. The Mahomedans numbered over two lakhs in the State and the Member requested that one from the community might be appointed as a Judge in the High Court.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

23. The necessity for amending the Jenmi and Kudiyan Regulation.

Mr. Thrivikramar Vasudevar (Member, Jenmi, Padmanabhapuram Division) conveyed the thanks of the jenmies to the Government for sanctioning, in G. O. No. J. 227, dated the 5th January 1915, the appointment of a Committee to enquire into the working of the Jenmi and Kudiyan Regulation. He said that it was far from the intention of the Jenmi Sabha that all rights should be secured to the jenmies to the prejudice of the kudiyans. The jenmies only wished that the working of the Regulation should be improved. In regard to the constitution of the proposed Committee, he said that, unless the greatest care was taken in selecting impartial men to serve on the Committee, the condition of the jenmies might become even more disastrous than under the existing Regulation. In regard to the declaration of the Government's policy contained in para 2 of the G. O., he said that the jenmies were satisfied with it in the same way as the kudiyans.

Messrs. Iravithayar Pandarathil (Member, Jenmi, Quilon Division) *Narayanar Janardanar* (Member, Jenmi, Trivandrum Division) and *Narayanar Thuppan Numboori* (Member, Jenmi, Kottayam Division) also thanked the Government for appointing a Committee to examine the defects in the existing Regulation and said that, in view of the Government resolution, they would defer their remarks on the question.

Messrs. P. Narayana Pillai (Member, Chengannur taluk) and *Kora Mathan Malpan* (Member, Muvattupuzha taluk) then expressed, on behalf of the kudiyans, their feelings of gratitude for the decision of the Government to appoint a Committee for the purpose of enquiring into and reporting on the Jenmi and Kudiyan Regulation and they said that, instead of taking up the time of the Assembly, they would place their observations and suggestions before the Committee.

Dewan's reply.—It gives me great pleasure to know that the resolution of the Government to appoint a Committee is appreciated both by the jenmies and the tenants. I assure you that the constitution of the Committee will receive the careful consideration of the Government and I trust that, when it is formed, the Committee will give satisfaction both to the jenmies and the tenants. I would also add that, when the recommendations of the Committee come before the Government, they will be most carefully considered and every endeavour made to arrive at a satisfactory solution.

24. The necessity for a legislative enactment to regulate the right of inheritance among the Ezhavas.

Mr. C. Krishnan Vaidyan (Member, Nominated) stated that he had made a representation on the subject at the tenth session of the Assembly but that no

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